



**United States Department of State  
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors  
Office of Inspector General**

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## **Inspection of Embassy La Paz, Bolivia**

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The Office of Inspector General team observed first hand that Embassy La Paz prepared well for, and the regional security officer managed effectively, the internal defense of the chancery compound during a recent violent demonstration.

Embassy La Paz recently submitted a rightsizing report identifying the staffing levels required to support its Mission Strategic Plan goals. However, the report did not address how the

current difficulties in the bilateral relationship impede the ability of several mission elements to accomplish their goals and how staff levels could be adjusted to reflect these conditions. The Embassy has developed and implemented effective programs of support for democracy and the rule of law in the face of Bolivian Government criticism and attempted interference.

The Embassy's effective counternarcotics programs aimed at interdiction, coca eradication, and alternative development is preserving the longstanding U.S. investment in counternarcotics efforts in the world's third-largest coca producing country. The Embassy has provided excellent reporting on the broad spectrum of political, economic, and counternarcotics issues.

The International Cooperative Administrative Support Services service provider has done an excellent job of providing management support across virtually the entire range of administrative operations at Embassy La Paz and the embassy branch offices in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and Trinidad. Opportunities exist for greater efficiency and economy by consolidating parallel management operations of the Department of State and other agencies at post. The mission has made initial efforts to consolidate housing and shipping operations, but further progress will require the active engagement of the executive office and greater U.S. Agency for International Development cooperation.

A management and legal stalemate in Washington has kept Mission Bolivia from establishing an American presence post (APP) in Santa Cruz and has hampered outreach into this increasingly economically and politically important region.

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**OIG Report ISP-I-08-56A, Inspection of Embassy La Paz, Bolivia**

The fieldwork for this report was conducted by the Office of Inspections in La Paz between June 6 and 27, 2008. This is an unclassified summary of a full report, which receives limited official distribution. Both the report summary and the full report reflect the conditions reviewed during the fieldwork.